



WING BEAT NEWS

Northern California Edition



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DOVE HUNTING

Mourning doves are the most abundant dove in North America and the most widely hunted and harvested game bird. Each year dove hunting regulation frameworks are set by the US Fish and Wildlife Service through a three-step process. Specific regulations governing the take of doves in California are then selected within these frameworks by the California Fish and Game Commission and forwarded to the Service for adoption. In California the PROPOSED 2005 Dove Season opens the first day of September and runs for 15 consecutive days (Thursday, Sept. 1 through Thursday Sept. 15, 2005). The PROPOSED late season opens again the second weekend of November for 45 consecutive days (11-12 thru 12-26-2005). The PROPOSED bag limits and shooting hours will be 10 per day, 20 in possession from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Doves are often hunted near harvested grain fields such as wheat, barley, safflower or sunflowers. Doves prefer to feed on bare or nearly bare ground so a mowed, weed field can be attractive. When hunting the state wildlife areas as well as private lands, look for doves along the creeks, rivers, and other tree lined habitats. The first and last 2-3 hours of the day are usually when the doves are most active. Sierra Nevada foothill locations such as the Oroville and Spenceville WA's, the coastal foothills, and many of the valley WA's are good. Water sources such as canals, and ponds can also be good places to sit and wait for the doves to come to you. Several wildlife areas have utilized Upland Game Bird Stamp funds to plant safflower and sunflower to improve dove habitats and hunting. It is illegal to scatter grain or other seed in a field which is hunted.

"National mourning dove call-counts for 2005 showed a moderate decline in California's mourning dove population - likely due to decreased nest success associated with above-normal Spring rainfall. However, adult carryover from the robust 2004 population should provide an average to good dove season this year." Says DFG Biologist Pat Lauridson.

TIPS FOR DOVE HUNTERS

1. Pay \$1-2.00 more per box for high-quality trap and skeet loads. These shells have a more uniform consistency in powder, shot and pattern than discount shells.
2. Go to the trap and skeet range or sporting clays range. Reintroduce yourself to your shotgun and moving targets if it has been a few months since you last hunted.
3. Bring the sunglasses, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. If you can't see the birds coming out of the sun, if you are swatting insects, or feeling the skin burn, you can't shoot accurately.
4. Take a bottle of water and don't forget medicine that will relieve sinuses and allergies.

Questions and Answers -

Are reservations necessary for hunting the northern California/Sacramento Valley wildlife areas? No reservations are needed for hunting during the Sept. dove season. There will be a check station on opening morning for a limit of 75 hunters at the Yolo Bypass WA. A reservation may be useful during the late dove season on the Type A waterfowl hunting areas such as Upper Butte Basin, Gray Lodge, and Yolo Bypass Wildlife areas.

Is there a charge? There is no charge for hunting any of the Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Areas during the early dove season or the Type C wildlife areas during the late dove season. There is a fee charged (tentatively \$14.00/day) on the Type A waterfowl hunting areas when the waterfowl season begins.

The following is a list of public lands where doves are often found. Call the phone number for additional information and a map. It is recommended that a trip to one of these areas before dove season will let you know where the habitats and birds are located.

PLACES TO HUNT

(Sa/Su =safflower/sunflower plots planted on the wildlife areas; N,S,E,W = directions)
Black Butte Reservoir (3000 acres) - 25 miles west of Chico via Hwy 32 on County Road 200 (Newville Road). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (530) 865-4781. Web site www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-co/lakes or email blackbutte-info@spk.usace.army.mil.

Sacramento River Wildlife Area - Type C areas - (Butte/Glenn/Colusa Counties) - Pine Creek, Jacinto, Shannon Slough, and Princeton Units. Access is mainly by boat except for the Shannon Slough Unit. The Sacramento River habitat is generally heavily wooded. Call DFG at (916) 358-2900.

Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area - Type A area - Little Dry Creek Unit, 11 miles west of Gridley on Gridley Colusa Hwy and turn right at the wildlife area entrance to the self-registration check station. No Su/Sa planted. Howard Slough Unit, 11 miles west of Highway 99 on Highway 162 and turn right on ZZ Road for 1 mile to the self-registration check station. Su/Sa NE of both

SUMMER 2005

Game Bird
HERITAGE

parking lots 1 and 2, a plot at the N end of the Unit. Llano Seco Unit, 13 miles west of Hwy 99 and turn right on Z Road/7 Mile Road for 7 miles to the self-registration check station on the left. Three Su/Sa plots between parking lots 1 and 2. Entry for late season dove hunting on Sat., Sun., and Wed., controlled by waterfowl permit regulations. Call (530) 982-2169 for more info. Pick up maps at the check stations.

Oroville Wildlife Area (10,000 acres) - Type C area - West of Oroville on Highway 162, 5 Sa/Su plots were planted around the Thermalito Afterbay. Hunting along the Feather River is also recommended. (530) 538-2236.

Spenceville Wildlife Area (11,213 acres) - Type C area - East of Marysville on Highway 20 about 18 miles and turn right on Smartville Road for 1 mile. 80 acres of Sa/Su planted this year, due to good spring rains the plantings will likely do well. 5 plots E and W of Waldo Road, 7 plots in the Jones Road area south of Spenceville Road, 3 plots in the Horseshoe Flat Area and 1 plot W of Pittman Road. (530) 538-2236

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area (9200 acres) - Type A area - 10 miles east of Live Oak on Pennington and Almond Orchard Roads, (530) 846-7500. Hunting is best near the 7 (total of 100 acres) safflower and sunflower plots located near parking lots 6, 7, 11, 12 and 13, and in the abandoned orchards. For early dove season, sign in at the self-registration booth located at Pennington and Rutherford roads where maps are located. Entry for late season dove hunting on Sat., Sun., and Wed., is controlled by waterfowl permit regulations.

Sutter Bypass Wildlife Area (3766 acres) - Type C area - 10 miles west of Yuba City via Highway 20 or Franklin Road or Oswald Road or Highway 113. (Look for the privately owned safflower or wheat fields adjacent to the Sutter Bypass Levee.) You must stay on the Sutter Bypass levee to hunt doves. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900.

Colusa Bypass Wildlife Area (1,248 acres) - Type C area - 1 1/2 miles north of Colusa on River Road. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900.

Feather River Wildlife Area (2200 acres in 5 separate properties) - Type C areas -10-15 miles south of Yuba City and Marysville. Abbott Lake and the O'Connor Lakes Units are south of Yuba City on Garden Highway at the end of Star Bend Road. The Nelson Slough Unit is under the Highway 99 Bridge near Nicolaus. Sheep are grazing the Nelson Slough lands during the summer of 2005 to reduce the star thistle and other annual weeds. This new management may improve the areas attraction to dove. The Star Bend and Lake of the Woods Units are south of Marysville on Feather River Boulevard and accessible from the Star Bend Fishing Access. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900.

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (2,357 acres) - 21 miles east of Marysville via Hwy 20, Marysville Road and Dolan Harding Road, DFG Region 2 at (916) 358-2900.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (3,700 acres) - 3 miles east of Davis and 4 miles west of West Sacramento of Interstate 80. From east bound I-80 take East Chiles Road exit and travel east 1/4 mile to the west levee access. From west bound I-80, take Frontage Road exit immediately west to the west end of the Yolo Causeway, turn right at the stop sign and head south under freeway to west levee access. The safflower plots went under water in May 2005. It is unknown at this time whether the plots will be replanted. There will be a check station open 2 hours before shoot time on the opening morning only for the first 75 hunters. Self-registration after opening morning. DFG, Region 2 at (916) 358-2900 or (530) 757-2461.

White Slough Wildlife Area (880 acres) - Seven miles west of Lodi. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900.

New Hogan Lake (400 acres available for hunting) - 30 miles east of Stockton. Corps of Engineers (209) 772-1343.

New Melones Lake (25,000 acres) - 25 miles east of Oakdale. Bureau of Reclamation (209) 536-9094

COASTAL AREA - Dove hunting in the north and central portions of the Central Coast Region is generally fair because cold weather before the Sept. 1 opener sends many doves south. If we are lucky and do not have the cold period, however, dove hunting can be good to excellent.

Cache Creek Wildlife Area (3,860 acres of DFG land) and Cache Creek Management Area (70,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake, Yolo, and Colusa Counties - From Williams on I-5, go west about 33 miles on Highway 20 to the parking lot on the south side of the highway. This parking lot is also about 8 miles east of Clearlake Oaks. DFG at (707) 944-5500 or BLM Ukiah office at (707) 468-4000.

Indian Valley Wildlife Area (4,990 acres of DFG land) and Indian Valley Management Area (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Colusa Counties - About 27 miles west of Williams or 14 miles east of Clearlake Oaks on Highway 20 turn north on Walker Ridge Road. DFG at 707 944-5500 or BLM Ukiah office at 707 468-4000

Cow Mountain Recreation Area (60,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Mendocino Counties - Access from Ukiah (about 8-10 miles): Highway 101 to Talmadge Road to East Side Road to Mill Creek Road to the Recreation Area. Access from Lakeport: Take 11th St. exit from Highway 29 west to Scotts Valley Road, then left on Riggs Road to Scotts Creek Road and the Recreation Area. BLM Ukiah office at 707 468-4000.

Mendocino National Forest - U.S. Forest Service at 530 934-3316.

Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, Wingo and Huichica Units - Six miles south of Sonoma - Wingo Unit is on Millerex Road and the Huichica Creek Unit is on Buchli Station Road. Call DFG at 707 944-5500.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

A. The following wildlife areas will be open to dove hunting throughout the legal season without reservation or quota. Sign in at the self-registration booth. The number of hunters to each area will not be regulated - O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area, Little Panoche Reservoir, San Luis Reservoir, Dos Amigos WA, and the Upper and Lower Cottonwood Creek WAs.

B. The following San Joaquin Valley wildlife areas have a quota or drawing:

Winton – Juniors only. This area is located approximately six miles north of Winton, adjacent to the Merced River. Fifty acres of safflower were grown by a private landowner for a special juniors only dove hunt. One hunt is scheduled for the afternoon of opening day (September 1), 1:00 p.m. to sunset; and two hunts are scheduled for the first Saturday of the season (September 3) one half hour before sunrise to noon and 1:00 p.m. to sunset. These hunts can accommodate 120 hunters, 40 in the morning and 40 in the afternoon. The hunts are as follows: Hunt A: September 1, afternoon; Hunt B: September 3, morning; Hunt C: September 3 afternoon. For additional information, contact the DFG, Wildlife Management section, at (559) 243-4005, extension 133.

Los Banos Wildlife Area will have two designated hunt areas on opening day, September 1, with a total hunter capacity of 100. Section quotas will be filled until 12:00 p.m., after 12:00 p.m. the area will be open to free roam hunting. The remainder of the area will be open to provide hunting for non-reservation hunters. Total capacity of the area will be 300 hunters. The area will remain open for birding, sightseeing, fishing, frogging, and dog training. However, camping will be restricted to the main parking lot Wednesday, August 31. The hunt is as follows: Hunt P: September 1. For additional information, contact the DFG, Los Banos Wildlife Area, at (209) 826-0463.

Salt Slough Unit of the North Grasslands Wildlife Area will be divided into three sections (northern, middle and southern sections) with reservations being issued for 150 hunters for September 1. Section selection will be made at the check station. Any space available at one-half hour before legal shoot time will be filled by non-reservation hunters. Section quotas will be filled until 12:00 p.m., after 12:00 p.m. the area will be open to free roam hunting. Hunt Q: September 1.

Gadwall and Volta Wildlife Areas will be closed to all dove hunting.

For maps or a San Joaquin Valley Wing Beat News subscription with info about these lands and other hunts, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Los Banos Wildlife Area, at (209) 826-0463.

How to Apply for the San Joaquin Valley Dove Hunts

To be eligible for the drawing, hunters must submit in writing their choice of hunts listed in order of preference. Applications may include up to two hunters applying as a party. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for yourself and your guest: (1) hunt area (i.e. Los Banos [P]), (2) name, (3) address, (4) daytime and evening telephone number, (5) 2005-2006 hunting license number and (6) if you have a mobility impairment and need special accommodations.

Hunters may only apply once, either as an applicant or as a guest for each hunt. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing. Please make your selection(s) carefully. Changes cannot be made after the drawing. Applications must be returned to: San Joaquin Valley Dove Hunts, DFG, 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710.

Applications must be received by Friday, August 5, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. Only successful applicants will be notified and supplied with additional information about their hunt. Hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older). An Upland Game Bird stamp is required of all hunters, except junior license holders. This information and application can be found by visiting the Department's web page at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.

Dove Results 2004

Wildlife Area	Date	Doves	Hunters	Ave.	Wildlife Area	Date	Doves	Hunters	Ave.
Oroville	No check station				UBBWA				
Spenceville	1-Sep	929	192	4.8	Llano Seco	1-Sep			Estimate of 1.5
Cosumnes-Dillard	1-Sep	264	37	7.1	Howard Slough	1-Sep			Estimate of 1.5
	2-Sep	35	25	1.4	Little Dry Creek	1-Sep	no data		
Cosumnes-Arno	1-Sep	78	41	1.9	Gray Lodge	1-Sep	845	213	4.0
	2-Sep	4	9	.4		2-Sep	86	52	1.7
Yolo	1-Sep	119	94	1.3		3/15Sep	162	175	.9

Sutter County Fish and Game Commission Junior Pheasant Hunt and Mobility Impaired Hunt at DFG Nelson Slough Unit.

WHAT and WHEN: The Sutter County Fish and Game Commission is sponsoring a morning and afternoon junior pheasant hunt on Sunday, October 30, 2005. Application deadline is October 14, 2005. This hunt is for all junior hunters including those with impairments which affect mobility. If you are mobility impaired, please note "MI" on the application.

WHERE: These hunts take place under the Highway 99 Bridge, near Nicolaus, about 25 miles north of Sacramento and 20 miles south of Yuba City. This is the same location as the junior hunts sponsored by the Yuba County Fish and Game Commission on Sat. Oct. 29, 2005 and the Dept. of Fish and Game junior hunts on Nov. 5 and 6, 2005.

APPLICATION: Send a postcard or letter w/ the junior's name, address, phone #, hunting license number and a "1" and "2" next to Sunday AM and Sunday PM. Five applications will be considered as a group.

MAIL TO: Sutter County Fish & Game Commission, Sutter County Public Works Dept., 1130 Civic Center Blvd, Yuba City, CA 95993. Contact Chuck Wyllie at (530) 671-9250 if you have any questions.

GAME BIRD HERITAGE SPECIAL DOVE HUNT APPLICATION

Cosumnes River Preserve Dove Hunt 2005

California Department of Fish & Game -Sacramento Valley Central Sierra Region

(Located between Elk Grove and Galt off of Highway 99)

Please check the boxes below for the hunts you would like to apply for. You may apply for any hunt and any dates but you will only be drawn for one dove hunt. Multiple applications will not be accepted and will result in disqualification.

This section must be complete to qualify for the drawing. You may apply as a party of up to four, as long as all hunter's names and hunting licenses appear.

Name: _____	License #: _____	Contact Address & Phone #:
Name: _____	License #: _____	_____
Name: _____	License #: _____	_____
Name: _____	License #: _____	() _____

Hunt Number	Area	Date	Check to Apply
1	Dillard Road	September 1, 2005	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Dillard Road	September 2, 2005	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Arno Road	September 1, 2005	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Arno Road	September 2, 2005	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mail to: Department
of Fish and Game
GBH Special Hunts
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A,
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

- ☐ The deadline to apply is Wednesday August 10, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.
- ☐ The computer drawing will be the Thursday following the deadline
- ☐ Successful applicants will be notified by mail 3-5 days after the drawing
- ☐ Non-hunters may accompany you on the hunt and do not need to be declared on the application
- ☐ This hunt is free and open to all legal hunters
- ☐ Exchanges or replacement of absent hunters will not occur

Questions Call: 916-358-2839

Volunteers Needed

Brush-Up Day at Sacramento and Delevan National Wildlife Refuges

WHAT: Camouflage and clean hunting blinds, stake pathways and maintain signs.

WHEN: Sat. October 1, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The purpose is to help prepare the hunting area for fall hunting. About 50 concerned conservationists come out each year to prepare the area. A forum is held at 1:00 p.m. to tell about improvements made to the 2 refuges and the fall waterfowl forecast.

SCHEDULE: Meet at the Sacramento Refuge check station at 8:30 a.m. on Road 68 (formerly Norman Road) and help cleanup until noon. From noon to 1:00 p.m. is a \$6 lunch which can be ordered from Bruce Billings or you can bring your own lunch. At 1:00 is a forum full of refuge information and answers to your questions. Enjoy the workday with family and friends.

WHAT TO BRING: Hip boots (some areas are flooded), work gloves, hat, water, chair, sun screen, and mosquito spray.

To order lunch, send a check for \$6 to Bruce Billings, 423 N. Murdock Ave., Willows, CA 95988 along with your name, address and phone number. Bruce's number is (530) 934-0227. For event details, call Sacramento NWR, (530) 934-2801.

TRACKS, WING BEAT NEWS, AND OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA-Available by Mail

TRACKS is a free subscription-based, quarterly Dept. of Fish and Game color magazine with statewide information about hunting. The spring edition focused on big game hunting with information on deer, elk, antelope, bighorn sheep, bear and pig tag applications. Hunting statistics, answers to common questions, the 2005 deer herd forecast, and much more is included. To sign up for TRACKS send your name, mailing address, city, state and zip code to: DFG Tracks by Mail, 1416 Ninth Street #117, Sacramento, CA 95814, or e-mail the same address info to: cprusinski@dfg.ca.gov.

WING BEAT NEWS is a free, subscription-based Dept. of Fish and Game newsletter, published 3 times a year, which focuses on spring turkey hunting, dove hunting and fall hunting. This publication includes the location of many public lands and game species which may be found on them. To sign up for the Northern California Wing Beat News (north of Modesto to Oregon) send your name, mailing address, city, state and zip code to: Wing Beat News-N. Cal, 3207 Rutherford Road, Gridley, CA 95948 or email to: glwla@dfg.ca.gov. Renew your Northern Cal WBN subscription every 2 years with a renew note to either of the same addresses.

For a subscription to the Central California Wing Beat News (Modesto to Bakersfield) send your name, mailing address, city, state and zip code to WBN-Central Cal., 18110 West Henry Miller Ave., Los Banos, CA 93635.

OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA is a \$12.00 a year, bimonthly (6X a year) color magazine with a variety of stories about wildlife, wildlife habitat, law enforcement cases involving wildlife, fishing and much more. A one year subscription can be acquired by sending a \$12 check or money order to: Outdoor California, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090. For subscription assistance call (916) 653-6420.

Sage Grouse Hunting

The Department of Fish and Game is now accepting applications for the annual sage grouse hunts. The proposed 2005 sage grouse hunting season is scheduled for September 10 and 11, 2005.

As in previous years, hunts are scheduled for portions of Lassen, Mono and Inyo Counties. In Lassen County, the proposed bag limit is two sage grouse per season. In the Mono and Inyo areas, the proposed bag limit is one grouse per season. There is plenty of public land available for hunting as much of sage grouse territory is made up of BLM land. Hunters are advised to bring plenty of water and be prepared for rugged terrain and hot, dry conditions.

In order to hunt sage grouse, hunters must be drawn for a sage grouse hunting permit. The permits are issued by a random drawing at the DFG's License and Revenue Branch. Hunters may apply for only one of the four sage grouse hunting zones (East Lassen, Central Lassen, North Mono and South Mono-Inyo). In addition, all sage grouse hunters are required to have an Upland Game Bird Stamp.

Sage grouse permit applications must be received at the License and Revenue Branch by 5:00pm, August 8, 2005. Hunters may apply for a sage grouse permit by sending a postcard with the required information to: Department of Fish and Game, Sage Grouse Permit Drawing, 3211 S Street, Sacramento, California, 95816. To apply for a sage grouse permit online visit the License and Revenue Branch home page at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/> and click on the Sage Grouse Permit Drawing Application link.

All applications must include the hunter's name, 2005/2006 California hunting license number, residence address and the hunt zone choice. Incomplete applications and those with invalid hunting license numbers will be disqualified.

Hunters may apply in parties of up to four, but each hunter needs to list his or her name, mailing address, and 2005/2006 hunting license number on the application. Each hunter may submit only one application for one hunt area.

Falconers may also apply for sage grouse permits but must write "Falconry Only" on their applications. Check current regulations after the August Fish and Game Commission meeting for season dates (normally Nov-Jan.).

The sage grouse, or "sage hen" as it is commonly called, is the largest native grouse in North America. Among the fowl-like birds, only the turkey is larger than the sage grouse. The sage grouse ranges from the Oregon border along the east side of the Cascade Range and Sierra Nevada to northern Inyo County. Lassen and Mono Counties have the most stable populations. The East Lassen and Central Lassen Hunting Zones are located in the Susanville-Eagle Lake-Ravendale portion of Lassen County. The North Mono Hunting Zone is south of Bridgeport and the South Mono-Inyo Hunting Zone is near Bishop. Maps will be sent to those who are successfully drawn.

Young sage grouse are excellent eating and are considered a prized game bird by those who hunt them. Older birds may be tough and often have a strong sage flavor as a result of their diet. This flavor can often be prevented by cleaning the bird quickly after they are shot.

Hunters wanting more information about the sage grouse permit drawings can contact Glenn Underwood at (916) 227-2268.

Department of Fish and Game Opens Cañada De Los Osos Ecological Reserve for Junior Hunters

California Department of Fish & Game
20 Lower Ragsdale Road
Monterey, CA 93940
Attn: CDLO _____ Hunt

The Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the California Deer Association (CDA), will be hosting expanded junior hunting opportunities on the 4,200-acre Cañada De Los Osos Ecological Reserve in Santa Clara County this year. Three junior hunts were held in 2004, and were enjoyed by both the junior hunters and their adult guardians. The program has been expanded to six hunts for 2005 in response to the high level of interest expressed last year.

The first junior hunts were held in April and May and may be available again next year. All juniors must be accompanied by an adult. The day includes classroom, range and field assistance in the techniques of gun handling and safety, turkey hunting and game care. There will be shooting practice as well as instruction on wildlife and hunting. CDA volunteers will guide participants on their hunts. These will be a two-day events, except for the dove hunt, with overnight lodging available in nearby Gilroy. Lunch on the second day will be provided by CDA. To apply for this hunt, applicants need to submit a postcard with the hunter's name, address, telephone number, and 2005-2006 junior hunting license number to: 5

Applicants may only submit a single application for this hunt and applications need to be received at the address above by 5 p.m., on the deadline dates. Applications received late or incomplete will not be considered in the draw. Successful applicants will be notified by phone and will receive additional information, including maps and special regulations, prior to their hunt.

The hunt schedule is as follows:

Hunt	Hunt Dates	# Juniors	Deadline
Spring Turkey	April 16-17(Past)	5	Past
Spring Pig	May 28-29(Past)	5	Past
Dove	Sept. 3	6	Aug. 3
Deer	Sept. 10-11	4	Aug. 10
Fall Pig	Oct. 15-16	5	Sept. 15
Fall Turkey	Nov. 12-13	5	Oct. 12

Applications for these hunts will also be accepted by postcard submitted to the address above, indicating the desired hunt on the front.

Gray Squirrel Hunting

Squirrels live in lots of places in California. Learning a little about the ecology of squirrels will allow you to better understand where and how to hunt squirrels. Several species of tree squirrel occur in California, however only the Western Grey Squirrel provides extensive and worthwhile hunting and eating opportunity. They are fairly common in mature stands of most conifer, hardwood and mixed hardwood conifer habitats throughout California. They are also found in riparian woodlands along the many Central Valley rivers. They require hollow trees or will build a stick nest. Food varies seasonally, however acorns are an important summer, fall and winter food. Grey squirrels are non migratory and home ranges vary from about .5 to 2.5 acres in size.

Look around and under pine and nut trees. Gnawed nut shells and other food debris will tell you if the tree is regularly inhabited. As nervous and alert as they are, the squirrels will see you before you see them. It is wise to enter an area quietly, get comfortable, and wait for the little creatures to accept you as part of the environment.

What do you need to go squirrel hunting? A shotgun of any gauge or a small caliber rifle like a .22 caliber semi-automatic. If you are new to squirrel hunting, a shotgun with number 6 shot is best. Shotguns are better as the squirrels tend to jump from tree to tree a lot, but the shot can be a problem when eating, the ultimate goal. Dress for the weather and bring food and water. Know where you are before you decide where to go. That way you will get back to your vehicle in time for dinner.

Where to go? In the central part of the state the best opportunity to hunt grey squirrels occurs on national forest land within the range of black oaks and mixed black oaks with conifers. This may be, depending on latitude, from about 2,000 to 6,000 feet in elevation. In the Sierras, Highways 120, 108, 4, 88, 50, 80, 20, 70 and 36 will all get you into tree squirrel habitats. In the Coast Range, try the Mendocino National Forest. They can also be found along the Central Valley rivers and oak woodlands. You can combine a squirrel/mountain quail hunt when the seasons overlap in the mountains and a squirrel/valley quail hunt when their seasons overlap in the central valley and foothills.

Get your gear together, an ice chest to store your lunch and the squirrels you are going to bag, and start looking. When you are sure you are where the squirrels are supposed to be, based on the habitat you are in, its time to go hunting.

Basically, you can stalk these critters or sit on a rock, tree stump or folding chair and wait. A combination of the two usually works best. Stalk till you find a concentration and then wait them out. Your chance will come when they can't sit still any longer. Pack some food and drink with you for it may be a little wait.

Once you've killed some squirrels, its time to clean them. Gut as soon as possible, skin and bag them. Keep them cool. Squirrel is normally very mild flavored and tender.

Remember, in California the daily bag and possession limit for tree squirrels is 4 per day and 4 in possession.

The tree squirrel general season begins the second Saturday in September extending through the last Sunday in January (Sept. 10, 2005- Jan. 29, 2006). This applies to the counties of Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma,, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba, and that portion of Kern County lying east of Interstate 5.

Archery and Falconry Tree Squirrel Season and Area: Tree squirrels may be taken with bow and arrow or raptors only during the tree squirrel general season and as follows: the season in the counties of the Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake , Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne and Yuba: and that portion of Kern lying east of Interstate 5 shall open on the first Saturday in August extending through the day before general tree squirrel season (August 6 - Sept. 9, 2005).

The following is a list of public lands where squirrels are often found. Call the phone number for additional information and a map. Central Valley DFG wildlife areas are restricted to shotgun and archery hunting only.

PLACES TO HUNT

National Forests of California - Check the Information Page for phone numbers of the National Forest Offices or for any forest map contact: U.S. Forest Service, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 at (707) 562-8737 or w/a credit card call 530 647-5390. U.S. Forest Service maps are about \$6 each. Plan a weekend and camp out at one of the many campgrounds.

Tehama Wildlife Area (44,601 acres) - Type C area - 25 miles east of Red Bluff on Highway 36 to Plum Creek Road; or east of Red Bluff on Hogsback Road. Tree squirrels found along Plum Creek, Durley Flat, Antelope and Oak Creeks. Call DFG at (530) 597-2201.

Sacramento River Wildlife Area – Type C areas – (Butte/Glenn/Colusa Counties) – Pine Creek, Jacinto, Shannon Slough, and Princeton Units. Access is mainly by boat except for the Shannon Slough Unit. The Sacramento River habitat is generally heavily wooded. Call DFG at (916) 358-2900

Oroville Wildlife Area (10,000 acres) - Type C area - West of Oroville on Highway 162, (530) 538-2236. Shotgun and archery hunting only.

Spenceville Wildlife Area (11,213 acres) - Type C area - East of Marysville on Highway about 18 miles and turn right on Smartville Road for 1 mile, (530) 538-2236.

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (4,200 acres) - 21 miles east of Marysville via Hwy 20, Marysville Road and Dolan Harding Road, DFG Region 2 at (916) 358-2900.

Sutter Bypass Wildlife Area (3766 acres) - Type C area - 10 miles west of Yuba City via Highway 20 or Franklin Road or Oswald Road or Highway 113. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900. Shotgun and archery hunting only.

Feather River Wildlife Area (2200 acres in 5 separate properties) - Type C areas -10-15 miles south of Yuba City and Marysville. Abbott Lake and the O'Connor Lakes Units are south of Yuba City on Garden Highway at the end of Star Bend Road. The Nelson Slough Unit is under the Highway 99 Bridge near Nicolaus. The Star Bend and Lake of the Woods Units are south of Marysville on Feather River Boulevard and accessible from the Star Bend Fishing Access. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900. Shotgun and archery hunting only.

Auburn State Recreation Area (30,000 acres) - South of Interstate 80 near Auburn. Dept. of Parks and Recreation (530) 885-4527/988-0205.

Knoxville Area in Lake and Napa Counties: Take Knoxville Devilhead Road off of Berryessa Knoxville Road just north of Knoxville. This is the only road into area. Access restricted to foot or horse traffic. BLM in Ukiah 707-462-3873.

Cache Creek Wildlife Area (3,860 acres of DFG land) and Cache Creek Management Area (70,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake, Yolo, and Colusa Counties - From Williams on I-5, go west about 33 miles on Highway 20 to the parking lot on the south side of the highway. This parking lot is also about 8 miles east of Clearlake Oaks. DFG at 707 944-5500 or BLM Ukiah office at 707 462-3873.

Indian Valley Wildlife Area (4,990 acres of DFG land) and Indian Valley Management Area (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Colusa Counties - About 27 miles west of Williams or 14 miles east of Clearlake Oaks on Highway 20 turn north on Walker Ridge Road. DFG at 707 944-5500 or BLM Ukiah office at 707 462-3873.

Advanced Hunter Education Workshops

The Dept. of Fish and Game and other organizations are presenting the following workshops. For more info go online to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/coned/huntclinics> or call Susan Herrgesell at 530 225-2319. Please fill out a separate online form and send separate checks for each clinic. Reservations will be on a first come/first serve basis. Deadline for registrations, including fees, will be due two weeks prior to the workshop date. Make checks payable to: California Wildlife Foundation and send them to Dept. of Fish and Game, Advanced Hunter Ed Program, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001.

If you cannot go online, please send the following info: workshop name and date, your name, address, city, state and zip, phone #'s during day and evening along with the check. You will receive a confirmation of your registration and, approximately two weeks prior to the clinic you will receive a packet of information containing directions to the property and a list of items you will need to bring.

Land Navigation & Survival Clinic - July 16-17, 2005 at the Stonyford area, northern Colusa County. Jeff Banke, author of Land Navigation for the California Hunter, will cover the fundamentals of navigation, compasses, map types, GPS units and wilderness survival skills with real life situations. This will be a backpacking adventure. This course is a "must" for successful and safe hunting. A weekend of hands-on experiences. Cost: \$50.

Waterfowl Hunting Clinic - August 13, 2005 in Crescent City, CA from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. From duck calls to duck identification, this clinic has it all. In this clinic we will focus on calling, bird ID, ethics, etiquette, gauging distance, decoy placement, and ballistics. Cost: \$30

Waterfowl Hunting Clinic - September 10, 2005 at Rancho Esquon, Butte County from 9:00 am-4:30 pm. In partnership with California Waterfowl Association we are offering this waterfowl hunting clinic. Topics will include hunting habitats, bird ID and behavior, site set up, gear and garb, calling 'em in, K9 considerations and more! This workshop is appropriate for hunters of all ages and abilities. Cost \$40 (Includes CWA membership, hat, materials and lunch.)

Upland Game Hunting Clinic - September 17, 2005 at the High Desert Hunt Club, near Gorman (south of Bakersfield) from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. In partnership with Quail Unlimited, this clinic will include information about how to hunt pheasant, quail, and chukar. Topics will include history, habitat, food, range maps, equipment, and hunting with or without a dog. There will be dog demonstrations, both pointers and flushers. Space is limited. Cost: \$40

Upland Game Hunting Clinic - September 24, 2005 at the Wilderness Unlimited Property in Williams, CA from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. In partnership with Quail Unlimited, this clinic will include information about how to hunt pheasant, quail, and chukar. Topics will include history, habitat, food, range maps, equipment, and hunting with or without a dog. There will be dog demonstrations, both pointers and flushers. Space is limited. Cost: \$40

Waterfowl Hunting Clinic - October 1, 2005 at the Wilderness Unlimited Property in Williams, CA from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Learning waterfowling from the BEST at this comprehensive waterfowl clinic, Mike Carion, Assistant Chief of the Dept. of Fish and Game. Mike's expertise in waterfowl hunting and identification is renowned. And, John Hayden, scull boat manufacturer, will be there to demonstrate scull boating. Topics to be covered are concepts of decoy placement, blind design, ballistics, calling, duck ID, and safely. Space is limited. Cost: \$40

DFG's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program Revived as Non-Profit BOW California, Inc. Classes are now available.

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has helped revive the "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" program, providing a link to the former Department-sponsored program on the DFG Web site at www.dfg.ca.gov.

The outdoors skills workshop for women has launched itself as a non-profit organization, BOW California, Inc. The new program will support itself through individual donations and grants, and will offer an array of seminars identical to the former program. "Considering that Becoming an Outdoors-Woman has not been able to operate because of a budget shortfall for nearly two years, the program has remained amazingly popular," said Susan Herrgesell, DFG's former BOW program coordinator. "This revitalization is an amazing success story. But BOW is back to say, 'We're alive in '05.'"

BOW California, Inc. will offer a series of one to three-day workshops covering backpacking, fly-fishing, rifle and shotgun shooting, archery, bird hunting, ocean fishing, mountain biking, kayaking, map and compass reading, and rock climbing. The most popular event - a multi-day, multiple course experience - will be conducted in October. To register for a workshop, log on at www.bowcalifornia.org or call (707) 448-1230

Volunteer workshop instructors are biologists, hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts experienced in instructing women. Instructors receive only a stipend to cover travel expenses.

"The best part of this renewed BOW California, Inc. is that a program is now ready to offer women the opportunity to learn a variety of outdoor skills in a safe, non-threatening environment - something that can change their lives in the process," Herrgesell said.

Anyone who would like to help can contact Rebecca Buesgen at (707) 448-1230, or Rebecca@bowcalifornia.org, or write to BOW California, Inc. P. O. Box 2896, Vacaville, CA 95696.

CLASSES OFFERED AS OF JUNE 2005

1. BOW Multi Course Event, Oct. 28-30, 2005. Wonder Valley Ranch east of Fresno in the Sierra Foothills. Classes begin at 1 PM on Friday and end at noon on Sunday. Lodging meals, instruction and equipment is included for the low registration price of \$350.00. The BOW Multi-Course workshop is a basic introduction to a variety of outdoor skills. Rooms are dormitory style with 4-6 women sharing a room. Linens are provided, and all buildings are heated and smoke-free. The food is excellent and if you have dietary requirement or physical needs that require assistance or special arrangements, please notify us. There are a variety of classes to choose from including an Intro. to Firearms and Safety, Map and Compass, Archery, Beginning Fly-Fishing, Kayaking, Fly Tying, Knot Tying, Beginning Shotgun Shooting, Outdoor Cooking, Exploring Wild California, Wilderness First Aid, Northern California Wildlife Safari, Field Orienteering, Bow Hunting, River/Lake Fishing, Camping and Backpacking, Beginning Rifle Shooting, GPS, and more.

2. Beyond BOW workshops are single or double topic specific events providing more advance training in outdoor skills. While these events typically provide instruction and basic equipment, usually you provide your own camping gear, meals and other supplies listed in the course requirements. Exceptions are listed in the event descriptions. Beyond BOW events take you from the basics to a higher knowledge and skill level.

Northern California Beyond BOW Classes in 2005 include:

- A. July 16, Day at the Range at the Livermore
-Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club
- B. July 30, Kayaking at Lake Natoma, Rancho Cordova
- C. August 26-28, Map and Compass at Lake Margaret in Shasta Co.
- D. Sept. 23-25, Fly Fishing at Bidwell Ranch in Shasta County
- E. October 8, Ocean Fishing at Queen of Hearts in Half Moon Bay
- F. Dec. 4, Pheasant Hunt at Williams in Colusa County
- G. Dec. 16-17, Duck Hunt at Williams in Colusa County

Southern California

Beyond BOW Classes in 2005 include:

- A. July 29-31, Mountain Biking at Big Bear Lake
- B. Sept. 23-25, Surf Fishing and Sea Kayaking at Malibu
- C. Sept. 30- Oct. 2, Rock Climbing at Joshua Tree National Park
- D. October 15, Day at the Range at the Inland Fish and Game Shooting Club

ANNUAL KIDS FISHING DAY AT ELLIS LAKE IN MARYSVILLE

The Marysville Kiwanis Club is again sponsoring the free Youth Fishing derby at Ellis Lake on Saturday, September 10, 2005. The event is for pre-schoolers through 8th grade. The event begins about 7AM with a free pancake breakfast. There will be a jumping house, free cotton candy and other free handouts. There will be random drawings for prizes such as bikes, fishing gear, and sporting equipment. Prizes will be given out for the biggest fish. The Kiwanis Club will make this a fun filled day for the entire family.

VOLUNTEERS WITH TRAINED BIRD DOGS NEEDED

On October 29, 30 and November 5, 6, 2005 there will be Junior Pheasant Hunts at the Nelson Slough Wildlife Area 25 miles north of Sacramento on Hwy 99. There will be hunting opportunities for 520 youth, women, and wheelchair bound junior hunters. Adult volunteers with or without trained bird dogs are urgently needed to plant the pheasants and act as monitors with small groups of junior hunters and their adults. If you have a trained bird dog, you can help a junior hunter without a dog get their first bird. Come help for a half day or the whole weekend.

Please help the sportsmen from the Yuba and Sutter County Fish and Game Commissions pass our outdoor traditions on to the next generation.

If you can help, please contact DFG Wildlife Biologist Dale Whitmore at (530) 743-5068. Please give me a call and leave your name, address, and phone number.

FISHING IN THE CITY SACRAMENTO AREA

Free Fishing Instruction Clinics!

Free Loan (for 50) of rods, bait, & tackle!

Anglers 16 years of age and older need a fishing license to fish in California except on "Free Fishing Days"

Sponsored by the California Department of Fish and Game: City, District & County Parks Departments: United Anglers, and other organizations as noted.

Fri. Aug. 12 6PM – 8 PM Howe Park (Howe Ave. & Cottage Way in Sacramento)
Sat. Sept. 10 8:30 - Noon Gibson Ranch – Cosponsor: Granite Bay Lions Club
\$4/car parking fee

(West of Watt Ave. On Elverta Road in Elverta)

Sat. Sept. 24 8:30 - Noon Elk Grove Park
Free Fishing Day (On Elk Grove Florin Road in Elk Grove)

For More Information Call: (916) 358-2827

Ponds stocked with Catfish!

Freshwater Fishing Guide Online

To help you plan your fishing day, the California Department of Fish and Game has developed the Fishing Guide. The Fishing Guide contains locations which Fish and Game has determined will offer excellent opportunities for recreational fishing. These locations were derived in part from the DFG's trout planting data, as well as from input by DFG regional and headquarters staff. Go online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fishing/html/FishingGuide/FishingGuide.html>.

DFG Creates an Ocean

Sport Fishing Regulations Hotline

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is making it easier for sport anglers to stay informed about current ocean fishing regulations with the introduction of a new hotline.

Thanks to this new service, most of California's ocean bottomfishing regulations are now just a phone call away.

DFG has developed the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at (831) 649-2801. Using a touch tone keypad, anglers can now get the latest groundfish regulations information over the phone, and with a cell phone, it's possible to get this information while at sea. To use the hotline, anglers simply need to know where in the state they plan to fish, and the groundfish species or species groups they will be targeting or are likely to catch.

"The department is committed to keeping the information found on this hotline current at all times so that anglers will have a dependable source for finding the latest groundfishing regulations," said Gary Stacey, manager of the Marine Region. "This new service is now available to everyone 24 hours per day, seven days a week."

In-season changes to ocean sport fishing regulations can make it tough for fishermen to keep up with current fishing rules. While the DFG provides information on its Web site, at www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd, to help anglers stay informed about regulation changes, those without computers and Internet access have found it more difficult to get current information.

The hotline does not present complete groundfish regulations information, and is not intended to take the place of the regulation booklet or supplement. It does present regulations that are the most likely to change during the season, including openings and closures, depth restrictions, and size and bag limits

FREE FISHING AND REDUCED FEE FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY

The Department of Fish and Game provides Free and Reduced-Fee Sport Fishing Licenses to anglers who meet specific criteria. In addition, many disabled veterans qualify for a reduced-fee hunting license. Free and reduced-fee licenses are available by mail or in person only from DFG license sales offices.

A Five-Year Free Sport Fishing License is available for any person with central vision acuity of 20/200 or less and for any person who is permanently physically disabled and requires the aid of a wheelchair, walker, forearm crutches or a comparable mobility-related device. A physician must verify eligibility for this license.

Annual Free Sport Fishing Licenses are available for American Indians whose income is below Federal poverty guidelines. Certification from the Bureau of Indian Affairs as proof of being on a tribal registry is required.

Annual Free Sport Fishing Licenses are also available for any developmentally disabled person. Certification by a physician or the person in charge of a State Regional Center is required.

A Reduced-Fee Sport Fishing License (\$5.25) is available for low-income senior citizens and disabled veterans. To qualify, applicants must be 65 years of age or older and their monthly income cannot exceed \$790 for a single person or \$1,399 combined income for married persons. Verification from the Social Security office is required.

Honorably-discharged disabled veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 50% or greater are also eligible for reduced rates on sport fishing (\$5.25) and hunting licenses. Verification from the Veterans Administration is required.

Additional stamps, tags or report cards must be purchased at the regular fee. Call or visit your local DFG office for more information:

Eureka (707) 445-6493	Redding (530) 225-2300
Fresno (559) 243-4005	Sacramento (916) 227-2245
Los Alamitos (562) 342-7100	San Diego (858) 467-4201
Monterey (831) 649-2870	Stockton (209) 948-7800
Rancho Cordova (916) 358-2900	Yountville (707) 944-5500

ANNUAL KIDS FISHING DAY GRAY LODGE WILDLIFE AREA

The Gridley Recreation/Community Services and many other area businesses and organizations are sponsoring a terrific FREE fishing event open to youth 15 years old and under at the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area on Saturday, July 23, 2005. A pond will be stocked with 600 pounds of catfish and bait and tackle will be available for those who need it. Each participant will receive a "Goody Bag" and raffle ticket to win great prizes donated by the Oroville WalMart Fishing Program and local businesses.

Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. and derby hours are from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Last years derby was a big success with lots of fish going home. Anyone, including those over 16 with a valid fishing license, may fish after 12:00 p.m. If you would like more information about this popular community event, please call the Gridley Recreation Department at (530) 846-3264.

The following link will take you to the Fish and Game website to find and fill out the Special Hunts Pheasant Applications:

www.dfg.ca.gov/reg2/gamebird

The applications will be posted AFTER August 10, 2005.

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www.dfg.ca.gov/reg2/gamebird

The applications will be posted AFTER August 10, 2005.

Modoc NWR Junior Waterfowl Hunt

As of press time we expect junior hunters will have the opportunity to hunt waterfowl at the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge this fall on Saturday, September 24th. Advance reservations are required and applications will be accepted by mail through September 9, 2005. There will be a barbeque and orientation the evening before.

Only hunters possessing a valid California Junior hunting license may apply. Up to four hunters may apply together as a party. Junior hunters must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult (18 years or older) with no more than two junior hunters per adult.

The procedure for submitting applications is as follows:

1. Use only standard Postal Service postcards (3.5" x 5.5") and type/print clearly.
2. List the name, address and hunting license number for each person (up to 4) requesting permits. Zip codes must be correct.
3. Hunters must specify that the application is for the Junior Waterfowl Hunt.
4. A parent or legal guardian must sign for each applicant.
5. Mail postcards to: Junior Waterfowl Hunt, Refuge Manager, Modoc NWR, PO Box 1610, Alturas, CA 96101. Only cards received by September 9, 2005 will be accepted.

Any person whose name appears on more than one application will be excluded from the drawing, as will applications which are late, illegible or incomplete.

All refuge hunting regulations remain unchanged. A total of 50 hunters will be issued a permit. Complete regulations and permits will be mailed to those hunters who are selected from the drawing. Unsuccessful hunters will not be notified. No standby lists will be maintained and "no shows" will not be re-filled.

Hunters may contact Steve Clay, Refuge Manager, at the address above or call (530) 233-3572 for further information.

Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa, and Sutter NWR Conservation Planning Begins

A Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) is being developed for the Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa and Sutter National Wildlife Refuges by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). In 1997, Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (Act). The Act presented the mission for the Refuge System, and states that all wildlife refuges must have a CCP in place by the year 2013. These plans provide a 15-year guide, using the best available scientific knowledge, to help refuge managers achieve the purposes for which each refuge was established, and contribute to the mission of the Refuge System. The Act provides the Service with guidance for managing refuges in a way that ensures the long-term conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. Maintenance of biological integrity and diversity along with facilitating compatible wildlife-dependent recreation in the refuge system are two of the important principles laid out in the Act.

The CCP not only provides refuge managers with a blue print for resource management, it also provides communities in the vicinity of a refuge with a clear picture of what the refuge intends to do in terms of managing habitat, protecting wildlife, and providing a place where people can enjoy wildlife-dependent activities.

Refuges gain a lot through the CCP process. The opportunity to engage a wide range of people in planning refuge management is perhaps one the most beneficial aspects of the CCP planning process. Whether you hunt, bird watch, photograph wildlife, or live next door, this planning project will mean different things to each individual. This is a chance to voice your ideas and concerns.

You are invited to three public scoping meetings where the Service will cover the same information at each meeting.

1. July 6, 2005, Willows Memorial Hall, 525 W. Sycamore St, Willows, 6:00PM to 8:00PM.
2. July 12, 2005, Colusa Fairgrounds, 1303 10th Street, Colusa, 6:00PM to 8:00PM.
3. July 14, 2005, Veterans Hall, 146 Garden Highway, Yuba City, 6:00PM to 8:00PM.

If you have questions, comments, concerns, or would like information about the refuges, please call, e-mail, or write us:

Kevin Foerster, Refuge Manager – Kevin_Foerster@fws.gov, or

Jackie Ferrier, Refuge Planner – Jackie_Ferrier@fws.gov.

Address – Sacramento NWR Complex, 759 County Road 99W, Willows, CA 95988, (530) 934-2801. Call or write to us to be placed on our mailing list or to report a change in your mailing address.

The following refuges will be discussed:

Sacramento NWR – Established in 1937 and is comprised of 10,919 acres of seasonal marsh, permanent ponds, and upland habitats that are located seven miles south of Willows, CA. These habitats typically support in excess of 750,000 ducks and 3000,000 geese, as well as 18 listed or candidate species that are threatened or endangered species. The visitor center, auto tour route, and wetlands walking trail accommodate more than 70,000 visitors per year. In addition, waterfowl and pheasant hunting account for 7,000 visits annually.

Delevan NWR – Established in 1962 and consists of 5,797 acres of seasonal marsh, permanent ponds, and upland habitats located about 4 miles east of Maxwell, CA. This refuge supports more than 300,000 ducks and 100,000 geese, and several endangered plants and animals – some unique to the Sacramento Valley. A primitive Watchable Wildlife site is located on the south boundary of the refuge. Waterfowl and pheasant hunting account for about 5,600 visits annually.

Colusa NWR – Established in 1945 and contains 4,626 acres of seasonal marshes, permanent ponds, and upland habitats located two miles west of Colusa, CA. The refuge supports more than 200,000 ducks and 100,000 geese, along with several threatened or endangered species including the giant garter snake. An auto tour route and hiking trail accommodate more than 20,000 visitors annually. Waterfowl and pheasant hunting account for an additional 3,800 visits per year.

Sutter NWR – Established in 1945 and consists of 2,591 acres of seasonal marsh, permanent ponds, riparian forest, and upland habitats located five miles south of Sutter CA. The majority of the refuge is located within the Sutter Bypass of the Sacramento River. The refuge supports more than 200,000 ducks and 100,000 geese. The 400 hundred acres of riparian habitat provides for a variety of migratory songbirds, including the threatened yellow-billed cuckoo. Waterfowl and pheasant hunting account for approximately 2,500 visits annually.

DFG Seeks Public Input To Improve Efficiency of State's Fish Hatchery System

As part of a long-term effort to improve the efficiency of the state's fish hatchery system, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is asking anglers and other members of the public to help identify which waters and types of trout they value for recreational purposes. The DFG will use the information to develop a plan to maximize the hatchery system's output.

As a result of a recent court ruling, the DFG did not receive \$4 million in Tidelands Oil Trust revenue dedicated for hatchery operations in the 2004-05 state budget. Additionally, the DFG expects to lose \$1.2 million in federal Sport Fish Restoration Act revenue in the 2006-07 fiscal year. Broddrick says the DFG can minimize the impact of these reductions by insuring that the hatchery system focuses on raising and stocking fish where the demand is greatest.

Between now and Aug. 31, members of the public who wish to comment on the hatchery system or fish stocking program can do so by:

- * E-mailing comments to DFG Director Ryan Broddrick at
 - * Submitting comments to the DFG Web site at <http://>
 - * Posting a letter to DFG Director Ryan Broddrick at 1416
 - * Participating in four regional public meetings to be held
- dates and locations.

director@dfg.ca.gov
www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/fh/hatcheryplan.html
Ninth Street, 12th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
during the summer of 2005. Call (916) 653-7667 for

Based in part on public input, the DFG will prepare a plan to make the hatchery system more efficient and responsive to angler demand. The plan also will incorporate aspects of the DFG's Strategic Plan for Trout Management, available online at www.dfg.ca.gov/fishing/assets/publications/StrategicPlanNov03.pdf.

Although the DFG welcomes public comment on any aspect of the state's hatchery system, it is primarily interested in learning where hatchery-raised fish are in demand, and which types of trout are most desirable.

To learn more about the DFG's public outreach effort to improve the hatchery system, visit the DFG hatchery Web page at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/fh/hatcheryplan.html>.

Town Hall Meetings scheduled for Northern California include the following:

REDDING – Monday July 18, from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., at the Redding City Hall Community Room, 777 Cypress Ave., in Redding.
MAMMOTH LAKES – Thursday, August 11, from 7-10 p.m., Mammoth Lakes Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail Drive, in Mammoth Lakes.

Attention: G1 and C4 Deer Tag Holders Quail and Turkey Hunters

Fall hunting opportunities at the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (Reserve), located near Chico, California are being planned. The Reserve is private property, owned by the Bidwell Environmental Institute Research Foundation. As part of the purchase agreement, the Research Foundation cooperatively developed a program with the California Dept of Fish and Game to allow hunting by permit only. Program details have not been determined at printing time.

All interested hunters and fisherman can check the Department's website www.dfg.ca.gov for applications and details or call 530-891-1065 for an application package which will describe this year's opportunities. Deer hunting applications will likely need to be received by August 1, 2005.

DFG offers August Black Bear Ecology Workshop

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will be offering a Bear Ecology Workshop, August 12-14, 2005 at Shaffer's High Sierra Camp in Sattley. The weekend class will be taught by Doug Updike, DFG senior wildlife biologist, and is a rare wildlife educational opportunity.

Whether you're a novice wildlife enthusiast or a regular visitor to bear country, "You will not want to miss this chance to explore the wonders of California's bears," said Lesa Johnston, DFG's bear workshop coordinator.

Shaffer's camp is tucked away in the majestic Tahoe National Forest, 45 minutes north of Truckee. The cost for the workshop is \$85 per person and includes meals and lodging in dormitory-style cabins, or personal tents if preferred. Traditional teepees are also available for lodging upon request. Light hiking is required and participants must be at least 18 years of age.

The camp will offer great restroom and shower facilities and first-class meals.

Topics covered will include an overview of the California black bear, bear biology, and bear sign, setting up monitoring cameras to document bear activity, interpreting bear activity, proper human behavior in bear country and avoiding encounters with bears.

This will be a great workshop for outdoor trip leaders, outdoor enthusiasts, biology and veterinary students, wildlife rehabilitators, educators, or anyone that loves California wildlife and has an interest in wildlife education. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Register online at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/coned/bearworkshop/bearworkshop.html> or contact Lesa Johnston at (916) 653-7748.

Youth in the Outdoors – Northern California Fall 2005

Calendar of Events

Aug 12, Friday, 6PM-8PM, Fishing in the City at Howe Park at Howe Ave. and Cottage Way in Sacramento. Pond stocked with catfish.

Aug 12 – Sept. 5: California State Fair, Sacramento County. \$ (916) 263-3247 <http://bigfun.org/html/default.aspx>

TBA: Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area Cleanup, Butte County. Free (530) 982-2169 or (916) 487.7593

Sept. 10, Saturday, 7 a.m., Ellis Lake in Marysville, Marysville Kiwanis Youth Fishing Derby for pre-schoolers thru 8th grade. Free pancake breakfast and jump house

Sept. 10, Saturday, 8:30-Noon, Fishing in the City at Gibson Ranch Park just west of Watt Avenue on Elverta Road in Elverta. \$4/car parking fee. Pond stocked with catfish.

Sept. 16-18: Wings of the Warners Festival. Free. (530) 233-3572 <http://modoc.fws.gov>
Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, Alturas.

Sept. 17: Great American River Cleanup, Sacramento County. Free. (916) 456-7423

Sept. 24, Saturday, 8:30-Noon, Fishing in the City at Elk Grove Park on Elk Grove Florin Road in Elk Grove. Pond stocked with catfish.

Sept. 24: Youth Kayaking Clinic, Nimbus Flats, Lake Natoma, Folsom, Sacramento County. 9am-3pm \$25. Must be accompanied by a parent. Parent may participate for \$25. Class emphasis on calm water kayaking, aquatic education, outdoor ethics, basic paddle strokes and water safety. Youth should be 10 years or older. Pre-register w/Lesa Johnston at (916) 653-7748 or on line at www.dfg.ca.gov/yo. Bring a sack lunch.

Sept. 24: Modoc National Wildlife Refuge Junior Waterfowl Hunt, Alturas CA. Apply by Sept. 9. (530) 233-3572. See article.

Sept. 24: Statewide Free Fishing Day, Department of Fish and Game. (916) 358-2872, (415) 892-0460, (562) 590-4835, (559) 243-1462. www.dfg.ca.gov

Sept. 24: Oroville Salmon Festival, Butte County. Free. (530) 538-2542, (530) 538-2222
www.orovillechamber.net [www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/fh/feather/feather index.htm](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/fh/feather/feather%20index.htm)

Oct. 1 Brush-up Day, Sacramento and Delevan National Wildlife Refuges, Glenn County. Meet at 8:30 at the Sacramento NWR check station parking lot off road 68. Barbeque at noon and hunters forum from 1-2. Free. (530) 934-2801

Oct. 1 Tarantula Fest and Fall BBQ, Santa Clara. 10 am-4 pm. \$. (408) 779-2728. www.coepark.org. Order barbecue tickets in advance, kids activity table, games and contests. Live music by The Tarantulas.

Oct. 8: Welcome Back Monarchs Day, Santa Cruz. 10 am-4 pm. (831) 423-4609, (800) 833-3494. www.santacruz.org

Oct. 8-9: American River Salmon Festival, Sacramento County. 10 am-4 pm. (916) 358-2884, (916) 361-8700.
www.salmonfestival.net

October 22-23 The Waterfowl Sportsmen's Exposition, Chico Fairgrounds. \$. (530) 476-2610.

Oct. 29: Youth Archery Clinic, El Dorado Hills. 9am – 2:30pm, \$10. Must be w/parent and parents can participate for free. Lunch and archery equipment provided for beginner class. Emphasis on archery basics, safety, and outdoor ethics. Youth should be 10 years and older. . Pre-register w/Lesa Johnston at (916) 653-7748 or on line at www.dfg.ca.gov/yo.

November, to be announced – Birding with Brian Williams at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge near Willows, CA (80 miles N of Sacramento) – 9am-3pm, \$12. Bring a lunch and binoculars will be provided. Emphasis on bird identification and calls, migration, beaks and feathers. Pre-register w/Lesa Johnston at (916) 653-7748 or on line at www.dfg.ca.gov/yo.



CAN YOU HELP US, HELP YOU?

One of the goals of Wing Beat News is to inform the public about hunting/fishing opportunities, outdoor events, seminars, festivals, wildlife habitat conservation, etc. We would appreciate your help with keeping us informed about events in northern California. Whether you live on the coast, in the Central Valley, or in the Sierras, you can help your fellow hunter. Please call Dale Whitmore at (530) 743-5068 or e-mail to dwhitmor@dfg.ca.gov with the name of the event and a phone number where further information can be requested. Flyers/bulletins can also be faxed to (530) 743-5068.

Internet - DFG homepage: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>
 DFG, Hdqtrs, 1416 Ninth St., Sacto, 95814 (916)653-7667
 Public Information Office 916 653-6420
 Wildlife/Inland Fisheries (916) 653-4673
 Human Resources (916) 653-8120
 CalTIP - Californians Turn in Poachers
 1-888-DFG-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258)
 Wildlife Protection (916) 653-4094
 DFG, Region 1, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 225-2300, FAX (530) 225-2381.
 DFG, Region 2, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, (916) 358-2900, FAX (916) 358-2912.
 DFG, Region 3, P.O. Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599, (707) 944-5500, FAX (707) 944-5563.
 DFG, Region 4, 1234 Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710, (559) 243-4005, FAX (209) 243-4022.
 DFG, Region 5, 4949 View Ridge Ave, San Diego, CA 92123, (619) 467-4201, FAX (619) 467-4235
 DFG, Region 6, 330 Golden Shore, Suite 50, Long Beach, CA 90802, (562) 590-5132, FAX (562) 590-5152.
 DFG, Marine Region, 20 Lower Ragsdale Dr., #100, Monterey, CA 93940 (831) 649-2870
 DFG, License and Revenue Branch, 3211 S Street Sacramento, CA 95816 (916) 227-2177 / 227-2245
 Wildlife Areas- Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, 3207 Rutherford Rd., Gridley, CA 95948 (530) 846-7500
 Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, P.O. Box 368 Suisun CA 94585 (707) 425-3828
 Oroville/Spenceville Wildlife Areas, 945 Oro Dam Blvd, Oroville, CA 95965 (530) 538-2236
 Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area, P.O. Box 190, Butte City, CA 95920 (530) 982-2169
 Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, 45211 County Rd 32B, Davis, CA 95616 (530) 757-2461
 DFG Hunter Education Information
 Program Administrator (916) 653-9727
 Region 1, Coordinator (530)225-2304 Rec (530) 225-2003
 Region 2, Coordinator (916)358-2906 Rec (916)351-0833
 Region 3, Coordinator (707)944-5548 Rec (707)944-5576
 Region 4, Coordinator (559)243-4005, Ext 124 Rec 243-4027
 Region 5, Coordinator (760)947-8859 Rec (562)590-5670
 Upland Game Bird Publications (Quail, Pig and Turkey Guides) 1-916-653-2225.

Farming for Wildlife Brochure -
 Contact Dean Kwasny at (916) 653-7203.
 Fishing in the City Stocking Program (916)358-2872 (Sacto)
 Sport Fishing Information 1-800-ASK-FISH (275-3474).
 FishingGuide online, <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fishing/html/FishingGuide/FishingGuide.html>
 Ocean Sport Fishing Hotline (831) 649-2801
 Trout Planting information
 Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra (916) 351-0832
 Northern California(530) 225-2146
 Coastal Counties (Mendocino to San Luis Obispo) (707) 944-5581
 San Joaquin Valley-Southern Sierra (209) 222-3761 Ext 183
 Subscription to: DFG Tracks by Mail, 1416 9th St., #117, Sacramento, CA 95814 or e-mail cprusinski@dfg.ca.gov . Free, 4x a year.
 Subscription to: \$12 check or money order to- Outdoor California, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090. For subscription assistance call (916) 653-6420.

Sacramento NWR,(includes Delevan, Colusa and Sutter NWR's) 752 County Rd. 99W, Willows, CA 95988. (530) 934-2801.

Information Page

To report a BIRD BAND call 1-800-327-BAND
 Wing Beat News-San Joaquin Valley, Contact Los Banos WA, 18110 W. Henry Miller Ave, Los Banos, CA 93635

Wing Beat News-Northern California, Contact Gray Lodge WA, 3207 Rutherford Rd., Gridley 95948. (530) 846-7500 or e-mail glwla@dfg.ca.gov

Valley Care Newsletter (free)-Ducks Unlimited, 3074 Gold Canal Dr., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6116 (916)852-2000

For National Forest maps and information contact the following offices. Many of the offices carry maps of several forests. Most maps are about \$6 each.
 Mendocino NF, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988. (530) 934-3316
 Plumas NF, P.O. Box 11500, 159 Lawrence St., Quincy, CA 95971 (530) 283-2050
 Plumas NF, 875 Mitchell Ave., Oroville, CA 95965 (530) 534-6500
 Tahoe NF, P.O. Box 6003, Hwy 49 and Coyote St., Nevada City, CA 95959 (530) 265-4531
 El Dorado NF , (530) 644-6048
 Stanislaus NF, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 95370 (209) 532-3671
 Shasta-Trinity NF 2400 Washington Ave, Redding, CA 96001 (530) 246-5222
 Six Rivers NF 507 E. Street, Eureka, CA 95501, (707)442-1721
 Lassen NF 55 S. Sacramento St., Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-2151
 Modoc NF, 441 N. Main St., Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-5811

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, CDPR, 400 Glen Drive, Oroville, CA 95966, (530) 538-2200/538-2219
 Auburn State Recreation Area (30,000 acres), CDPR, P.O. Box 3266, Auburn, CA 95604, (530) 885-4527/988-0205

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers properties open for hunting:
 Black Butte Lake, USACE, 19225 Newville Road, Orland, CA 95963-8901, (530) 865-4781-8901, (530) 865-4781
 Englebright Lake, USACE, P.O. Box 6, Smartville, CA., 95977, (530) 639-2342.
 New Hogan Lake, USACE, 2713 Hogan Dam Blvd, Valley Springs, CA 95252, (209) 772-1343.

Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation areas open for hunting:
 New Melones Lake, Bureau of Reclamation, 6850 Studhorse Flat Road, Sonora, CA 95370, (209) 536-9094.

Department of Forestry property open for hunting:
 Jackson Demonstration State Forest - 50,200 acres, 802 N. Main St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437 (707)964-5674
 Boggs Mtn. Demonstration State Forest -3,493 acres, P.O. Box 839 Cobb, CA 95426 (707) 928-4378

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 Bakersfield, 800 Truxton Ave, 93301 (805)861-4191
 Susanville, 705 Hall St, 96130 (530) 257-5381
 Redding, 355 Henstead Dr., 96001 (530)246-5325
 Folsom, 63 Natoma St., 95630 (916) 985-4474
 Riverside, 1695 Spruce, 92507 (714)351-6383
 Carson City, NV, 1050 E. Williams St, 89701
 Cow Mtn/Kings Range Recreation Areas/Cache Creek Public 15 Access, 2550 N. State St., Ukiah 95482-3023, (707)468-4000

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Dates To Remember

July 1 – Cottontail rabbit season opened – See Spring Wing Beat News about places to hunt.

July 23 - Kids Fishing Day at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area near Gridley – Planted catfish

Sept. 1 – 15 Early dove season

Sept. 10, 2005 – Jan. 29, 2006 General tree squirrel season

Sept. 10, 2005 – Kids Fishing Day at Ellis Lake in Marysville – Planted catfish

What's Coming in Fall Wing Beat News

Pheasant Hunting; Women's, Family, Junior, and Mobility Impaired Junior Pheasant Hunts; Big Chico Creek Eco Reserve Fall Hunting; Quail Hunting; Migratory Waterfowl Regulations, Junior Waterfowl Hunts; and Turkey Hunting

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Note Expiration Date